

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5962
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 0500
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET
SUBJ: LIBERATION FRONTS ASSERT WAR WILL CONTINUE; CRITICIZE USG

1. AT NOON YESTERDAY, MARCH 11, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT, WSLF, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE WAR CONDUCTED BY THE WSLF AND THE SOMALI ABO LIBERATION FRONT IS CONTINUING AND WOULD CONTINUE. SECRETARY GENERAL ABDULLAHI MOHAMED HASSAN CLAIMED VICTORY OVER THE ETHIOPIANS, BUT ADDED THAT THE GRAVITY OF SITUATION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE INTERVENTION OF BIG POWERS ON THE SIDE OF COLONIAL GOVERNMENT. HE ASSERTED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI ARMY CONTINGENTS FROM THE BATTLE WILL NOT WEAKEN THE MOMENTUM OF THE STRUGGLE.

2. HASSAN ALSO CHARGED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES HAD ADOPTED IDENTICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CAUSE OF THE LIBERATION FRONTS. THE SOVIETS, HE CONTINUED, USED ARMED FORCE TO CRUSH OUR JUST CAUSE, AND THE US APPROVED. HE ACCUSED THE US OF INSINCERITY IN TRYING TO SPARE THE POPULATION OF WESTERN SOMALI FROM RETRIBUTION, AND CONTENDED AMERICA SHOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE WSLF LEADER SAID THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FLOWING INTO SOMALIA.

4. THE SOMALI ABO LIBERATION FRONT (SALF) MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT TODAY, MARCH 12, ASSERTING THAT THE WAR WOULD GO ON. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CRITICIZED THE ADMINISTRATION FOR

IGNORING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE WESTERN SOMALI PEOPLES
AND HOPING TO REESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA
THAT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. HE APPEALED TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE TO REDIRECT THE COURSE OF THE USG ON THE HORN OF
AFRICA.

5. MOGADISCIO RADIO AND THE SOMALI NEWS AGENCY HAVE ALSO
CARRIED THE STATEMENT OF THE WSLF, BUT BEEN CAREFUL TO
SOURCE THE STATEMENTS TO THE FRONT.

6. COMMENT: HOW MUCH CONTROL THE GSDR HAS OVER THE FRONTS
IS OPEN TO DEBATE. THE FRONTS MUST BE RESPONSIVE AT LEAST
TO A DEGREE TO THE WISHES OF MOGADISCIO, BUT THEY ALSO
REPRESENT POWERFUL FACTIONS WITHIN THE COUNTRY. THE GSDR
WILL FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO MUZZLE THEM, AND PROBABLY
TO DIRECT THEM TO FOLLOW PACIFIC POLICIES IN THE OGADEN AS
WELL. MOREOVER, IT WILL HAVE LITTLE CAUSE TO DO SO IF
THE ETHIOPIANS FOLLOW A VINDICTIVE POLICY IN THE
OGADEN.
LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

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